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INFORMA~~SECRET~~ REPORT

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1. The Slovene Christian Socialist party of the Free Territory of Trieste is led principally by clerical intellectuals who are refugees from Slovenia, where, before the war, clerical and liberal factions existed. The Party, of itself, is impotent since it has only a small following among Triestine-Slovenes and failed even in gaining the support of a majority of Slovene priests. It is felt that the leaders of the party will desert the Territory and local Slovene problems as soon as there is an opportunity to return to Slovenia.
 2. The Slovene Christian Socialist party is strongly nationalistic but friendly to the Demo-Christian Party (Italian-FIT) since both are backed by the Vatican. Bishop Santin, who reportedly supports Italian action towards the suppression and extinction of Slovenes in the Free Territory of Trieste, is in favor of the Slovene Christian Socialist party leaving the Slovene Democratic Union, inasmuch as a fight among elements of the White-Slovene Front would result in an advantage to the Italian irredentists.
 3. The Slovene Christian Socialist party at its 1 August 1948 party election meeting, at which Slovene Democratic Union leaders were guests, reaffirmed its cooperation with the Slovene Democratic Union in their fight against Communism and Italian Chauvinism. Recently, however, the Slovene Christian Socialist party has undertaken to act publicly as an independent party; e.g., its leaders appeared before Lt. Col. E. Shinkle, Allied Military Government, Department of Interior, to express their viewpoint on Slovene schools.
 4. Actually, a secession by the Slovene Christian Socialist party from the Slovene Democratic Union (Coalition Party) is a breach of their charter within the Slovene Democratic Union signed in late 1947, at which time the Party agreed to be a component of the Slovene Democratic Union coalition party and, thereby, have the Slovene Democratic Union represent it officially.

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